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UNASUR Electoral Council to witness Venezuelan vote



CARACAS :AFP photo shows Peruvian Foreign Affairs Minister Rafael Roncagliolo (L) shaking hands with the President of the Venezuelan National Electoral Center Tibisay Lucena, during a signing of agreements ceremony in Caracas on August 22, 2012. The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) signed an agreement with Venezuela's National Electoral Center to witness the country's presidential elections to be held next October 7. The organization has decided to act as an accompanier in accordance with the model used by Venezuela's National Electoral Council (CNE). Since 2006, the CNE has used electoral accompaniment as opposed to observation, the latter being more common in countries experiencing conflicts or with questionable electoral systems. Venezuela's own system is fully audited.

Traffic solution at Airport promised for Friday

On Tuesday the Minister of Transport met with all the players relating to the situation of the traffic at the temporary transit road in front of the airport to study what can be done to improve or eliminate the constant bottlenecks at peak moments at this intersection.

Everyone is aware of the stagnation of the traffic especially on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, which is causing a great deal of irritation to motorists and tourists



chauffeurs and tour operators who have come up with certain plausible solutions.

Hence, on Tuesday morning decisions were made as to what will be done to alleviate the situation. A section of the back road behind the airport coming from Simeon Antonio which leads to the airport will be closed. They will divert the traffic to lead to the main road near the Mahuma crossing. They will also create a temporary rotunda here to help with the traffic flow. In addition they will create a few bypasses.

One bypass will be at the Wayaca Residence to relieve the traffic going to Wayaca from the highway. Another bypass will be at the existing temporary rotunda to decrease the intensity of traffic.

According to DOW road specialist, Marlon Croes, all of these will be temporary measures to help improve the situation while always ensuring the safety of all motorists. They promise to have all the changes ready by Friday morning!

alike. The objective of the meeting with the Minister was to find a quick solution to the situation and to create some kind of practical alternative by Friday morning for the latest.

Jurgen Benschoop, Operations Director of the Airport, indicated that the airport has been monitoring the flow of traffic in front of the airport since the first day of the changes in the road, and that they have noted that during certain hours of the day the traffic simply backs up. They also touched base with taxi



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Former Colegio Bon Bini alumni win video-clip competition!



Just recently, Minister of Education, Arthur Dowers, began a campaign with the slogan... Di Mi E Ta, Cuid'e (It's Mine,...Take Care of it). The objective was to create awareness among school children to take care of their school pre-

mises. And, to also get families and friends to join in the same effort.

On Tuesday morning each child from Bon Bini College

The first part of the campaign which was launched two months ago was for children to create a video clip to participate in a competition. The campaign was well received by the children and last week 5 young children from Colegio Bon Bini in Madiki became the

absolute winners of the video clip competition. Each child demonstrated great talent in different areas of their productions, including directing, acting and even in editing!



received from the Minister, a delicious cupcake treat with the logo ...Cuid'e on it. That is when he announced that some of their former colleagues had won the competition. The winners themselves were not there at the time, and found out about their winning later that afternoon. This is because they no longer attend the Colegio Bon Bini as they graduated to the 6th Grade and moved on to their new school.

That afternoon the Minister returned to the school to meet with the winners, their friends,



family and former teachers and head master, Julian Pers. Sulayka Roga-Tromp a former teacher of the winners was also proud to be there to congratulate her former students.

The students were told that they would receive a fabulous prize if they win. But, Hannah Buenaventura, Dailinis Toro, Crystal Harms, Lucielle Hoek and Steven de Windt, could hardly believe their eyes when the Minister presented each with a tablet. The tablet includes a dictionary which they can use offline, some games, the option for networking, and

lots more.

The Minister was truly impressed with the production of each student and decided to reward them with a practical and educational product. Now that they have received their prizes, their video clips can be made public for everyone to enjoy. The video clips were edited by Steven who enjoys his hobby of digital editing.

The winning video clip, Di Mi E Ta...Cuid'e will be shown on TeleAruba and ATV and can also be seen on www.youtube.com (search:di mi e ta cuide).

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Aruban Chess team on their way to Istanbul, Turkey

On Sunday, the Aruba national Chess open female team is leaving for Istanbul, Turkey to participate in the 40th World Olympic Chess where 1500 Chess players from over 160 countries will gather for the games. The Olympics will begin on August 27th and will continue until September 10th. Some 11 turns will be played (one turn per day) with two days of rest.

Every two years, the best Chess players of the world measure their skill with others during the two weeks of the top Chess event of the world. This is the 6th time that Aruba is participating in an open selection. Other events were: Yugoslavia 2002, Mallorca 2004, Italia 2006, Germany 2008 and Russia 2010. Aruba also participated three times with a female selection, namely, in Germany 2008, and Russia 2010

Notwithstanding Aruba's small size, during the past decade we have developed



impressively with Chess and have improved our results considerably in the last 3 Olympics. Three of our male players have returned with the international title of Candidate Master. Those who achieved this distinction are: Raymundo Dijkhoff, Juste Lopez and Ahmid Juddan. The only female player to win a title is Claudia Carrero, who earned the Woman Candidate Master title.

This year several players of two national selections

participated in international tournaments, such as the Subzonal Ecuador, Pan-American U-20 in Brazil, the Curaçao Chess Festival, and the Pan-American U-16 in Peru. Our results are improving steadily, demonstrating that Aruba is a country to reckon with in the game of Chess.

The Open selection consists of CM Octavio Croes, Jose "Chelo" Pesqueira, Juan Pablo de Mey, Quintin van der Seijp y drs. Enrique Jacopucci. Rigo Tromp serves

as the captain.

The female selection consists of Manuelle Dania, WCM Claudia Carrero, Anelaine Jacobs and Maria Paula de Mey, with CM Raymond Dijkhoff serving as captain.

The fact that out of the 9 players 5 are under 20 years of age is indicative that Chess is growing among our youth. While most of the players are carrying their own travel expenses, we must mention that the government has pitched

in with some financial assistance. Also contributing is the Aruba Bank and the Aruba Chess Federation. These together were able to help with the purchase of plane tickets. Lodging and local accommodations, meals and transportation are always covered by the host country.

We wish our local Chess players much success in Turkey. Everyone interested in following the games can see them at: <http://www.ches-solympiadistanbul.com/>

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Isaac better organized, still threat for South Florida



Most of South Florida was inside Tropical Storm Isaac's "cone" yesterday but the threat to Caribbean islands, particularly Haiti, was more clear and immediate.

Yesterday, the National Hurricane Center reported that Isaac was crossing the Leeward Islands, on a path that would take it south of Puerto Rico toward a landfall sometime Friday on the island of Hispaniola, shared by the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Some 400,000 people live in

tents around the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, which could see intense rain of up to 20 inches, flooding and mud slides.

The storm, churning west at 21 mph and packing 45 mph winds, was expected to strengthen over the next several days and remain on a generally westward track. But as the weekend approaches, there is more uncertainty about Isaac's direction – and its threat to South Florida.

-

18th Annual Aruba International Pro-Am Golf Tournament begins this coming Friday

Organizers of the annual Aruba International Pro-Am Golf Tournament announced that pros and players from around the world will be arriving in the next few days, to be officially welcomed to the Tierra Del Sol Country Club and Golf Course for the 18th edition of this exciting event.

Amayra Boekhoudt, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority and Adam Williamson, head golf pro for TDS, proudly displayed the trophy plates and first place cup that players will win this year; each tournament sports a uniquely designed trophy.

**Amayra, Adam and Sponsors**

there will be a lot of things for them to do beyond the golf course."

International media is also expected, providing coverage from popular golfing magazines from the U.S., Europe and Latin America. Representatives from major local sponsors Balashi, De Palm Tours, Maggy's Emporium and EZ-Go, were present for the announcement of the upcoming event.

Pros and teams will be arriving from the U.S., Puerto Rico, Bermuda, the Dominican Republic, Curacao, Venezuela, Brazil, and Bolivia for the opening night event on Friday the 24th, with spouses.

This year, four teams will represent Aruba, one of them headed by Adam Williamson, who has been a first place win-

ner during the tournament on at least two occasions.

The golf course will be closed to public play during the three days of the tournament, but spectators are welcome to watch the international coterie of players in action on the greens. The final award dinner will take place on Sunday evening, August 26. At that time, they will observe the annual traditions of handing over a check to some worthy foundation, comprised of donations collected over the weekend. This year's recipient of the Aruba International Pro-Am Golf Tournament will be Clown Doctors Aruba, which has clown troupes visit children in the hospital to entertain and lift their spirits.

By Rosalie Klein**Champion prize 2012.**

This year they expect 30 four-man teams of amateurs to compete, each one captained and mentored by a notable golf pro. Competitors from ten nations will be taking to the fairways on Saturday morning, August 25, at 7:00 AM, then again at 2:00 PM. Amateurs will play a four-man scramble and the pros will play their own ball.

"This year we have expanded the extracurricular activities to truly showcase Aruba's many attractions," commented Adam. "Visiting players bring their families and

**Prizes for the 2012 Pro Am**

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— Announcement # 1—

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Caribbean Festival is tonight!



SAN NICOLAS -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolas to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Caribbean Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival, from 6:00 to 9:15 p.m., revels in the diverse background of San Nicolas, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

A full roster of some of Aruba's finest criollo entertainers follows including folkloric musical groups, dance groups solo singers, limbo dance by "Miguel Philips" and Carnival show by "Carna-Aruba," and this is only on the main stage!

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolas are performance areas surround by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner, including music by steel pan and Brass band."

Island visitors can enjoy the Caribbean festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize your evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.

Brazil fines Monsanto \$250,000 for misleading ad

BRASILIA (AFP) - A Brazilian court fined US biotech giant Monsanto \$250,000 yesterday for what a judge said was the company's misleading advertising concerning GM soy.

Monsanto released an advert lauding GM seeds in 2004 -- a time when their use in Brazil was banned -- suggesting that they benefited the environment.

But Judge Jorge Antonio Maurique in Porto Alegre, capital of Rio Grande do Sul state, slammed the commercial as "abusive and misleading prop-



aganda," dubbing the scientific benefits of Monsanto's product as "very questionable."

Monsanto can appeal the

court ruling but a representative refused to comment on the decision issued yesterday, saying the company was awaiting

official court notification of the ruling before considering its next steps.

The first GM soy seeds were illegally smuggled into Brazil from neighboring Argentina in 1998 when their use was officially banned and subject to prosecution.

The ban has since been lifted and 85 percent of Brazil's soybean crop (25 million hectares or 62 million acres), is now genetically modified, making Brazil the world's second producer and exporter, behind the United States.

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Over 50 Kenyans hacked, burned to death

NAIROBI (AFP) - At least 52 Kenyans were hacked or burnt to death in ethnic clashes between two rival groups, the worst single attack since deadly post-election violence four years ago, police said yesterday.

Police revised an earlier death toll of 48 after several people died of injuries sustained during the attack.

"Four more people have died, in addition to the 48 who died on the spot," said regional deputy police chief Joseph Kitur.

Speaking earlier, Kitur said of the attack, which took place late Tuesday between the Pokomo and Orma peoples in the rural Tana River district: "It is a very bad incident.... They include 31 women, 11 children and six men."

"34 were hacked to death and 14 others were burnt to death," Kitur said, while several huts were torched after a gang of men launched the attack, the latest in a long history

of bitter clashes between the rival groups in the remote area of Kenya.

It was not clear what sparked the attack, but the two communities have clashed before over the use of land and water resources, although the scale and intensity of the killings shocked police.

The attack happened in the Reketa area of Tarassa in Kenya's south-east, close to the coast and some 300 kilometres (185 miles) from the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

"Clashes over pasture have been recurrent in this region," said national police spokesman Eric Kiraithe.

The Pokomo are a largely settled farming people, planting crops along the Tana River, while the Orma are largely cattle-herding pastoralists.

"Our investigations have shown that it is the Pokomo who attacked the Orma people, who live on an island" in the river, Kitur added.

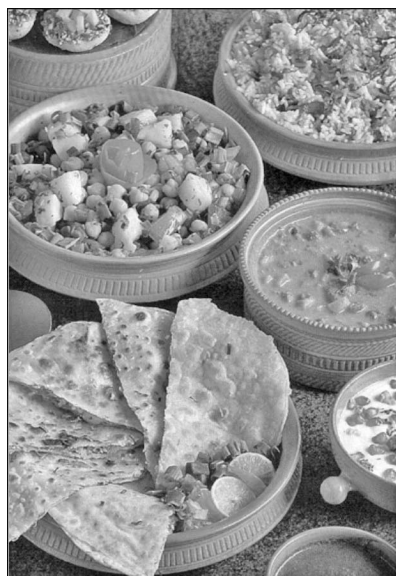
US sees record spike in West Nile virus cases

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States has seen at least 1,118 cases of West Nile virus this year, the most since the mosquito-borne disease was first detected in 1999, with 41 deaths, authorities said yesterday.

The Center for Disease Control said Texas alone accounted for almost half of all

cases, followed by Mississippi, Louisiana, South Dakota and Oklahoma, and advised Americans to take measures to prevent mosquito bites.

It said the number of cases is the highest recorded by the third week of August since the virus was first detected here more than a decade ago, and that it expects the toll to rise.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Breivik prepares comments for verdict hearing

OSLO (AFP) -- Norwegian gunman Anders Behring Breivik wants to address an Oslo court after it hands down its verdict against him, and is writing an autobiography detailing how he prepared for his horrific attacks, his lawyers said yesterday.

The Oslo district court is to announce Friday whether the 33-year-old right-wing extremist will be sent to prison or a closed psychiatric ward for the July 22, 2011 attacks that killed 77 people.

"He thought about what he wanted to say to the judges and so has prepared a few lines for every outcome," Breivik's lawyer Geir Lippestad told the daily newspaper Aftenposten.

It remains however uncertain if Breivik will be allowed to make any remarks on Friday.

During his 10-week trial that concluded in June, the court was wary of giving Breivik a platform to express his Islamophobic and anti-multicultural ideology, but on several occasions allowed him to speak at length.

On July 22, 2011, Breivik set off a car bomb outside the government offices in Oslo, killing eight people, before going to the island of Utoeya, northwest of the capital, where

he spent more than an hour gunning down another 69 people, mostly teenagers, attending a Labour Party youth camp.

Breivik has confessed to the killings but his 10-week trial was one of the most compelling in Norway's history as the court tried to delve into his mind to determine whether he is sane or not.

Another of Breivik's lawyers, Tord Jordet, told the tabloid Verdens Gang that his client is working on a sort of autobiography, which would contain details on how he prepared for the attacks and revelations about the mysterious Knights Templar organisation.

The book would focus on his life as of 2002, when Breivik claims he began his ideological crusade as part of the Knights Templar, though police have never been able to confirm the existence of the network of far-right militants that Breivik claims to have founded in London.

The book "will contain more information than what he told the police," Jordet said, adding that it would be written in English and finished next year, although it is not yet known whether it would be published.

Breivik is also reportedly known to be working on two other books, one on his ideology and another on his vision of the future.

The gunman has presented himself to the court as a writer and published a 1,500-page manifesto online just before

the massacre. It contained elements about his ideology, his life and details of how he readied himself for the attacks.

He wants to be found sane so that his beliefs will not be considered the ravings of a lunatic, and has said he would not appeal the case if judges rule that he is of sound mind.

Even though Breivik has confessed to the crimes, he pleaded not guilty and said his acts were "cruel but necessary" to protect Norway from the multiculturalism his victims had embraced.

A first court-ordered psychiatric evaluation concluded he was suffering from a psychosis, which would mean he would be sent to a mental asylum.

But a second opinion found he was sane enough to be considered criminally responsible, meaning he could be sentenced to prison.

Regardless of the verdict, Breivik is expected to live a very regimented life at the high-security Ila prison near Oslo, which is building a new wing to serve as a mini-hospital in case he is ordered to undergo psychiatric care.

Yesterday, the facility published photographs giving a peek into Breivik's current conditions at the prison.

He has access to three cells, each measuring eight square meters (86 square feet), with one to sleep in, one for physical exercise, and one workspace that has a laptop -- without internet -- nailed to a desk.



INDONESIA, Lindu : Photograph taken on August 21, 2012, shows the ruins of a house in Lindu village located in central Indonesian island of Sulawesi as rescuers reached the isolated areas following a powerful 6.3-magnitude earthquake. The death toll has risen to six while 43 people are injured and more than 400 homes damaged. The quake struck on August 19 near the mountainous districts of Central Sulawesi province, where access had been cut off by landslides.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN official: Iran linked to Syria arms

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - A top UN official said yesterday that Iran could be breaking UN resolutions by sending arms to Syria.

But Jeffrey Feltman, the UN's political affairs chief, highlighted the global body's concern about arms going to both sides in the Syrian civil war.

Feltman told a UN Security Council meeting on the Middle East that "the Syrian people are suffering grievously from the appalling further militarization" of the 17-month-old conflict.

The UN official added that Secretary General Ban Ki-moon "has repeatedly expressed his concern about the arms flows to the two parties in Syria which in some cases appear to violate resolution 1747."

UN resolution 1747 banned Iran, which is a key ally of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, from making arms exports. Iran could face sanctions for breaches of the resolution.

The United States has accused Iran of training Syrian pro-regime militia.

Official: France to continue shutting down Roma camps

PARIS (AFP) - France's Socialist government said yesterday it would continue its controversial policy of shutting down illegal Roma camps but would also ease employment restrictions on Roma from Romania and Bulgaria.

The announcements came after an emergency ministerial meeting on the handling of an estimated 15,000 Roma currently living in illegal and often squalid camps across France.

Housing Minister Cecile Duflot said after the talks that the government had agreed to abolish a charge of up to 300 euros (375 dollars) that employers currently have to pay to employ Bulgarian or Romanian nationals.

The list of jobs these nationals can apply for will also be enlarged, she said.

The prime minister's office said in a statement that the much-criticised dismantling of illegal Roma camps will continue if they are carried out after a court order.

President Francois Hol-

lande and his Interior Minister Manuel Valls came under fire this summer for sanctioning the dismantling of several Roma camps and repatriating hundreds of their residents to Bulgaria and Romania.

Several leading Socialists, Green members of the government and Roma rights groups criticised them for continuing the controversial policies of the right-wing former president Nicolas Sarkozy.

The Council of Europe rights watchdog on Tuesday urged France to "go beyond short-term measures" for its Roma population, while Amnesty International yesterday said France should stop dismantling illegal camps without first finding alternative lodgings for those evicted.

But Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault's office said after yesterday's talks that breaking up camps "continued to be legitimate if this is carried out after a court order or to put an end to a dangerous situation or an immediate health risk".

UN fears Syria conflict could spill over into Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United Nations yesterday called for greater international support to protect an increasingly divided Lebanon from fallout from the civil war in neighboring Syria.

Deadly clashes in Lebanon between supporters and opponents of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad have highlighted the need for international action, the UN's political chief told the Security Council.

"As the crisis in Syria continues to deteriorate, the situation in Lebanon has become more precarious and the need for continued international support to the government and the Lebanese Armed Forces increasingly important," said under secretary general Jeffrey

Feltman.

"Tensions over domestic and security concerns remain high throughout the country and are easily exacerbated by developments in Syria," Feltman told a council meeting on the Middle East.

Clashes in the Lebanese city of Tripoli yesterday that left at least eight dead, the kidnappings of Syrians in Lebanon, and shelling across the border have all heightened concern about Lebanon's stability.

Feltman said the arrest of a former Lebanese minister, Michel Samaha, for involvement in smuggling explosives from Syria had also "deepened concerns about attempts to draw Lebanon into regional

concerns."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon recently held talks with Prime Minister Najib Mikati on the crisis and "remains focused on protecting Lebanon's stability and sovereignty," Feltman said.

The United Nations has an 11,500 strong peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon to police a buffer zone with Israel, which fought a devastating war against Lebanon's Hezbollah movement in 2006.

Shiites in Lebanon's fractured multi-confessional population mainly support Assad's Alawite-led government, while Sunnis back opposition rebels. The militant Hezbollah has been a close ally of Assad.



RAFAH : A view of soldiers from the Egyptian army destroying the infrastructure of smuggling tunnels along the Egypt-Gaza border is seen from Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on August 22, 2012, as sources in Cairo suggested some of the gunmen from the attack on Egyptian troops in northern Sinai on August 8, that killed 16 soldiers, had entered Sinai through the tunnels. The tunnels trade, which analysts estimate is worth half a billion dollars a year, brings a wide variety of goods, including food, fuel and building materials, into the coastal territory which has been under an Israeli blockade since 2006. (AFP PHOTO)

Health & Living

US Republicans agree strict anti-abortion platform



MIAMI (AFP) - A US Republican panel Tuesday approved a rigid anti-abortion amendment, without exclusions for cases of rape or incest, as part of the party's platform to be unveiled at next week's national convention.

The committee met in Tampa, Florida, where the party will gather to nominate Mitt Romney to the Republican ticket, amid a national furor after a lawmaker's remarks about rape that has thrust abortion back into the spotlight.

The 110-member committee passed a "human life amendment" that would ban abortion and endow an "unborn child" with constitutional protections.

Committee members -- many of whom, as President Barack Obama's re-election campaign was quick to point

out, are Romney backers -- offered little debate and no new amendments to the platform, which embraced the same pro-life language of previous conventions in 2008, 2004 and 2000.

CNN reported that it obtained a copy of the platform language, which stated that "we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed."

Democrats swiftly branded the plan the "Akin amendment," in efforts to link it to what Romney himself was earlier forced to admit described as were Missouri congressman Todd Akin's "offensive" and "inexcusable" comments.

"Today, Republican leaders passed the Akin amendment as part of their party platform,

banning abortion for all women even in the case of rape," Obama campaign spokeswoman Lis Smith said in a statement.

"Several Romney supporters and advisers were present and stood silently while this vote took place. This should come as no surprise, as Mitt Romney supported this exact language in the 2004 and 2008 Republican platforms and (his running mate) Paul Ryan fought to ban abortion even in cases of rape."

The platform, which would still need ratification by the convention's delegates, could stand at odds with Romney over the issue.

"Governor Romney and congressman Ryan disagree with Mr. Akin's statement, and a Romney-Ryan administration would not oppose abortion in instances of rape," Romney spokeswoman Amanda Henneberg said Monday.

Akin was abandoned by the Republican establishment after Sunday, when he said women rarely conceive as a result of a "legitimate rape" because their bodies have the capacity to prevent such a pregnancy.

He quickly apologized, saying his comment was "ill-conceived and it was wrong," but on Tuesday he was still resisting pressure from within his own party not to stand in the Missouri Senate race.

Job stress doubles diabetes risk in women



OTTAWA (AFP) - Work stress doubles the risk of developing diabetes for women who have little or no control over what they do on the job, according to a new Canadian study.

The same is not true for men. "Men and women react differently to workplace stress," Peter Smith, lead author of the

nine-year study by researchers at the Institute for Work and Health and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Toronto, told AFP.

Smith suggested that women under stress may be "more likely to turn to foods with higher fat and sugar content than men," as one possible

explanation for the results.

The primary reasons outlined in the study for the increased risk for women are the disruptions of neuroendocrine and immune system functioning and increased or prolonged cortisol and sympathetic hormone release in reaction to stress; and changes in diet and energy expenditure, possibly as coping mechanisms.

The researchers followed 7,443 women working in Canada's Ontario province with no previous diagnoses for diabetes.

Their results, published this week in the journal of Occupational Medicine, showed that 19 percent of cases of diabetes in women are due to "low job control," which is higher than that for smoking, drinking or low physical activity, but lower than for obesity.



Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 3 p.m.

Dinner

Monday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m

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British locked-in syndrome sufferer dies



LONDON (AFP) - A British man left paralysed but fully conscious and aware of his predicament died Wednesday, days after losing a legal bid to end his life of "pure torture", his lawyers and family said.

Tony Nicklinson, 58, who had locked in syndrome as a result of a stroke on a business trip to Athens in 2005, died of natural causes, his family said.

On August 16, High Court judges dismissed his legal plea, unanimously ruling that it would be wrong to depart from a precedent that equates voluntary euthanasia with murder.

After the verdict Nicklinson broke down in tears, saying he was "devastated" by the decision.

Nicklinson's family said Wednesday that he died peacefully at their home in Melksham, western England, following a rapid deterioration in his health after contracting pneumonia.

Wiltshire Police said they were not involved in dealing with the death and neither was the coroner, suggesting it was not suspicious.

A message from Nicklinson's family on his Twitter account read: "Before he died, he asked us to tweet: 'Goodbye world the time has come, I had some fun'."

In a statement issued by his lawyer after the ruling last week, Nicklinson said: "I am saddened that the law wants to condemn me to a life of increasing indignity and misery."



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Sci-Tech

US corn, soy prices hit records as drought lingers

CHICAGO (AFP) - US corn and soybean prices closed at new record highs Tuesday as a new survey showed worse-than-expected crop damage from a brutal drought across the country's central breadbasket.

The price of corn jumped 1.7 percent to \$8.3875 a bushel, while soybeans finished at \$17.3250 a bushel, up 2.8 percent from Tuesday.

That left the corn price up 68 percent from June and soybeans 39 percent higher.

An all-time record hot July accompanied by nearly three months of extreme drought have baked the country's prime farmland in the mid-western and central states, where the world's largest corn and soybean crops are grown.

Prices jumped after reports from the annual Pro Farmer Midwest Tour gave analysts and traders more bad news on the state of the crops.

"Crops in western Ohio and eastern Indiana were far below the norm," said Pro Farmer analyst Brian Grete.

Yields in South Dakota meanwhile were called "stunningly low."

"The Pro Farmer tour

sparked the rally" Tuesday, said Frank Cholly of RJO Futures.

"They have a pretty good peg at final yields," he said.

The Pro Farmer estimates were significantly lower than the US Department of Agriculture's sharply slashed forecasts from last week.

"We are getting less production from South America, so that forces buyers to go to the US," driving up prices, Cholly added.

On August 10, the USDA sharply reduced its production forecast for the globally crucial crops, saying output would likely be at the lowest level in six years.

Last week, they estimated that 50 percent of the corn crop was in poor or very poor condition, compared to 15 percent at the same time last year.

For soybeans, 39 percent of the crop was in poor condition or worse, compared to 13 percent a year ago.

The drought has also hit feeds for livestock like hay, forcing ranchers to trim their herds, which analysts expect could push up the price of meat in the coming year.



ROME (AFP) - A section of wall dating back to the early 19th century overlooking one of Rome's most historic squares -- Piazza del Popolo -- crumbled on Wednesday due to the heatwave that is sweeping Italy. Rome mayor Gianni Alemanno visited the area where nine metres (30 feet) of wall have been damaged on a winding road with panoramic views over the Eternal City that connects the square to the Villa Borghese park on top of the hill. The road has been closed to traffic and Alemanno promised the damage would be repaired "in the coming days" and cost around 300,000 euros (\$374,000). "This is a direct consequences of the extreme climate," Umberto Broccoli, the administrator of Rome's cultural treasures, told reporters. "First there was snow, then a very rainy winter and now a very dry summer." The wall was built as part of a vast project by neoclassical Italian architect Giuseppe Valadier (1762-1839) to create a panoramic promenade in the centre of Rome and includes the famous Pincio terrace in Villa Borghese.

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 Restaurants are open for breakfast,
 lunch & dinner.

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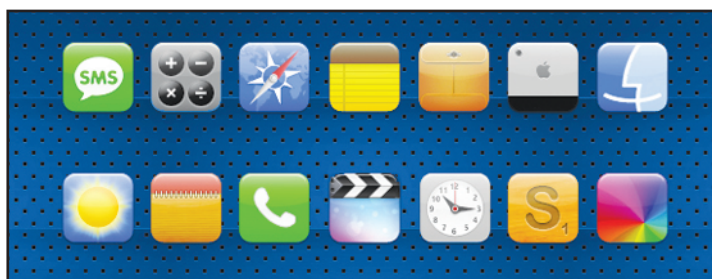
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US seizes websites linked to pirated phone apps



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US authorities have seized three website domain names involved in distribution of pirated Android phone apps, in the first such action involving mobile app marketplaces.

The Justice Department announced late Tuesday that they acted under a court order in coordination with international law enforcement, including Dutch and French officials, against applanet.net, appbucket.net and snappzmarket.com.

Visitors to the sites will now find a seizure banner that

notifies them that the domain name has been seized by federal authorities.

"Cracking down on piracy of copyrighted works -- including popular apps -- is a top priority of the (Justice Department) criminal division," said Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer.

"Software apps have become an increasingly essential part of our nation's economy and creative culture, and the criminal division is committed to working with our law enforcement partners to protect the creators of these apps and

other forms of intellectual property from those who seek to steal it."

During an investigation, FBI agents downloaded thousands of copies of popular copyrighted mobile device apps from the alternative online markets suspected of distributing apps without permission from the software developers who would otherwise obtain commissions.

In most cases, the servers storing the apps were being hosted in other countries, and the FBI was able to get help from international law enforcement in obtaining or seizing evidence stored on these servers.

Nine search warrants were also executed in various parts of the United States as part of an effort by the US Task Force on Intellectual Property.

COMICS

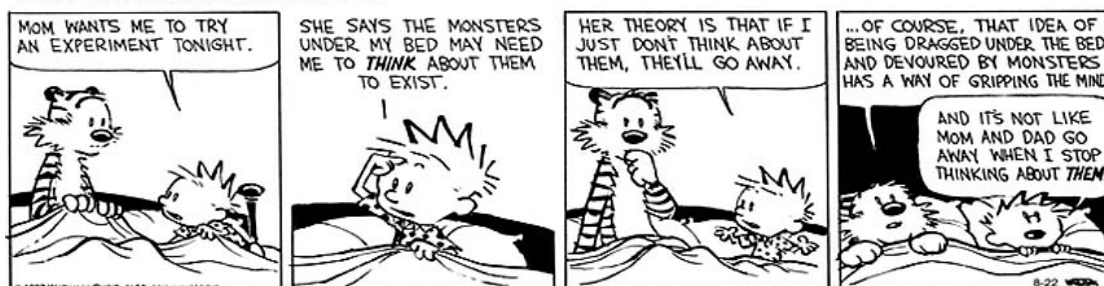
PICKLES



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TREASURE CHEST

ACROSS

1. Concorde
4. ____ Alto, California
8. Monday's entree
12. Taint
13. Actress Gray
14. Johnson of "Laugh-In"
15. Organized labor advocate
17. Within shouting distance
18. Fiduciary fixer
20. Paris-to-Zürich dir.
21. Pilfer
22. Stage of

history

25. Carnivore of the Amazon
29. Eloquent, as a speaker
33. November birthstones
34. It's past "due"
35. Disburden
36. Burrows or Vigoda
39. Rattlers
45. Italian wine town
46. Marks on many a math test
48. Marquee material
49. Locale
50. Pen fluid
51. Lane's

colleague

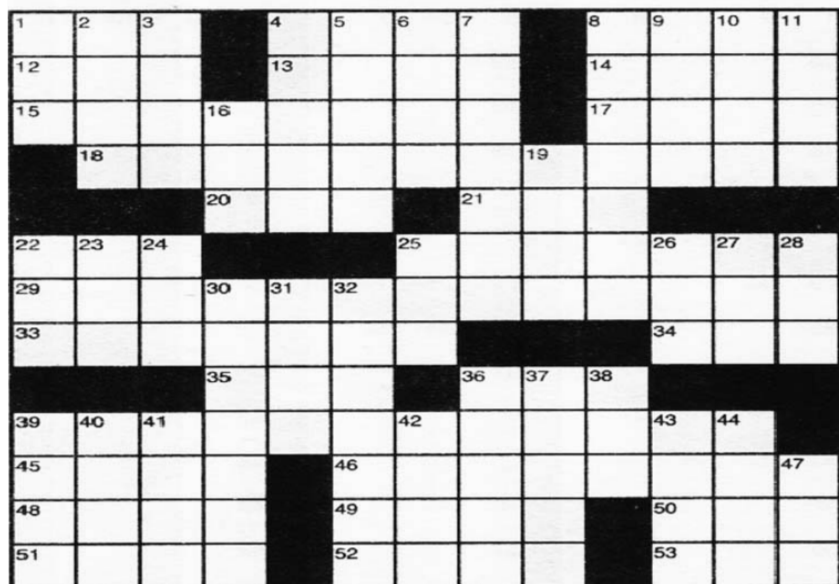
52. Went like lightning
53. Hog's hangout

DOWN

1. Dallas campus: abbr.
2. Was in glee club
3. The Magi, e.g.
4. Awaits action
5. Come about
6. Santa checks this twice
7. Thunder Bay's locale
8. Pocketbook
9. House painter's calculation
10. Have top

billing

11. Group of buffalo
16. Music to a matador's ears
19. Scandinavian fate goddess
22. Id ____
23. River, to Juan
24. Yodeler's mount
25. Two make a quart: abbr.
26. Screw-loose fixer
27. "Rings on ____ fingers..."
28. Summer cooler
30. Pest, to Yosemite Sam
31. Basso Pinza
32. Rubicundity
36. Ease up
37. Established
38. Medieval shield
39. Like root cellars
40. Under-standing phrase
41. Like ____ of bricks
42. Bore
43. Barbra's "A Star Is Born" costar
44. Telegraphed
47. Firmament



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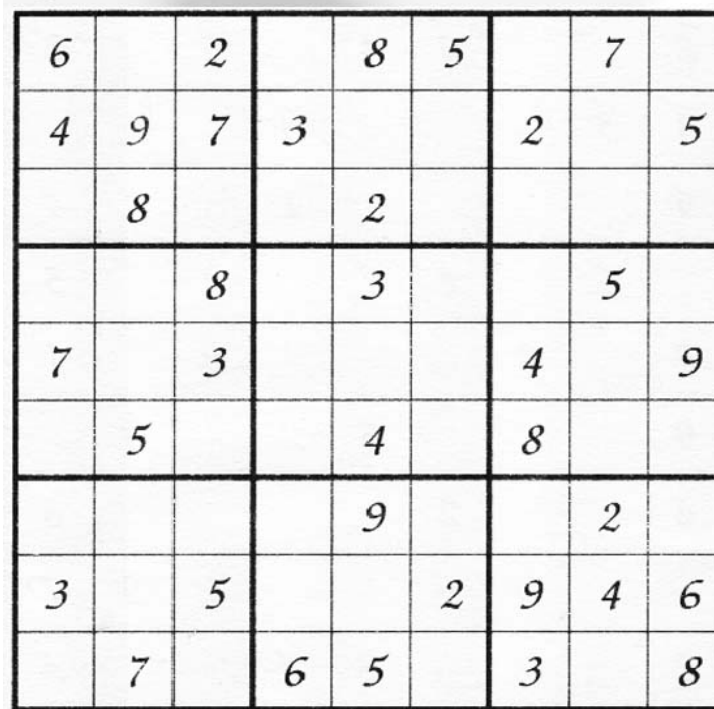
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	1	5	4	9	6	2	7	3
9	7	6	2	3	8	5	1	4
2	3	5	8	6	1	7	9	4
7	9	8	6	4	2	9	5	1
6	9	7	8	1	5	3	2	4
1	5	2	9	3	7	8	4	6
5	6	9	2	7	4	1	8	3
3	8	2	1	9	5	6	7	4
4	2	1	5	8	6	3	9	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

CBO: 'Fiscal cliff' plan will send US into recession

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Congress's budget analysts said yesterday that current policies designed to slash the budget deficit after January 1 will plunge the country into recession and push up joblessness.

The Congressional Budget Office said the budget plan agreed in a political deal last year -- sharp cuts to spending and tax increases that will hit household finances -- will cause the economy to shrink by 0.5 percent next year.

It would also likely send the unemployment rate to 9.1 percent by the second half of 2013, from the current already-high 8.3 percent, the CBO said.

The plan -- known as the

"fiscal cliff" because of the sharp return to recession also predicted by private-sector economists -- would succeed in cutting some \$500 billion from the budget deficit next year.

The deficit was estimated at \$1.1 trillion for this fiscal year, which ends on September 30, the CBO said. But the current economic current growth trajectory of about 2.25 percent would abruptly halt under the current law, the Budget Control Act of 2011, and the scheduled January expiration of temporary tax breaks.

"The outlook for the budget deficits, federal debt, and the economy are especially uncertain now because substantial changes to tax and spending policies are scheduled to take effect in January 2013," the CBO said.

"Fiscal tightening will lead to economic conditions in 2013 that will probably be considered a recession, with real GDP declining by 0.5 percent between the fourth quarter of 2012 and the fourth quarter of 2013, and the unemployment rate rising to about 9 percent," it said.

The CBO gave alternative, more encouraging growth scenarios should adjustments be

made to the existing law.

But since the August 2011 deal -- a poison-pill agreement never meant to remain in place but to force a more palatable deal between battling Democrats and Republicans -- politicians have not been able to agree on how to replace it.

And with the issues of debt and taxes at front and center in the presidential election campaign, neither side is likely to give in on a compromise before the November 6 vote.

But that will give Congress only a few weeks to reverse from the fiscal-cliff course before it is to come into effect beginning January 1 -- a fact that has businesses, investors and politicians increasingly worried.

If the fiscal-cliff policies are changed, so that current tax policies largely stay in place and the forced budget cuts do not take effect, the CBO predicted the economy would remain stronger in 2013 with growth around 1.7 percent and the jobless rate at 8.0 percent.

However, it said, the government's deficit would again hit \$1 trillion, and government borrowing would continue to weigh on the economy over the medium term.

Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 08/22/2012

Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A. USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain GBP	2.75	2.80	2.86
Switzerland CHF	184.42	185.14	185.94
Netherlands EUR	219.70	221.71	223.93
Sweden SEK	25.59	26.31	27.11
Denmark DKK	28.80	29.52	30.32
Norway NOK	29.19	29.91	30.71
Japan JPY	222.71	224.74	227.00

(per 10,000)
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

Dutch deficit to respect EU limit, government says

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Dutch deficit will drop to 2.7 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) next year, government planners said yesterday, bringing it back within the EU's official limit.

The estimate by the Centraal Planbureau (CPB) was 0.2 percentage points lower than a previous forecast in June of 2.9 percent. The CPB attributed the change to a cash windfall linked to health care insurance.

In 2011, the public deficit stood at 4.7 percent of GDP, well above the European Union ceiling of 3.0 percent.

"The CPB expects the deficit to reach 2.7 percent of GDP in 2013, or 17 billion euros (\$21.2 billion)," a statement said three weeks before the country goes to parliamentary polls on September 12.

Under pressure from Brussels to get its deficit back under 3.0 percent of output, five Dutch political parties

hammered out a package of spending cuts in late April, just after the Dutch government handed in its resignation.

The Netherlands aims to save 12.4 billion euros next year under the agreement, which was concluded four days after Prime Minister Mark Rutte's coalition threw in the towel following a breakdown in the negotiations.

Approved on April 26 by the Dutch lower house, the austerity program includes cuts to the health care budget and a wage freeze for government officials.

But analysts say implementation will depend on how the vote turns out and how quickly a new coalition government can be formed.

Leading in many opinion polls is the far-left party of Emile Roemer, who opposes spending cuts, saying the deficit target should be pushed back to 2015.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	C	H	E	I	F	A	A	B	L	E
M	A	I	L	N	A	N	C	O	A	T
M	U	G	S	H	I	G	H	T	O	P
A	S	H	E	A	R	E	A	S		
N	E	G		A	L	E	R	T	H	A
			R	I	V	E	R		C	H
P	E	A	C	E				H	O	G
A	L	D	E	N		D	O	E	T	H
T	I	E		G	R	A	N	D		C
			S	E	A	M	S		A	H
H	I	G	H	R	I	S	E		C	A
A	N	N	A		S	E	T		R	I
S	N	U	G		E	L	S		E	R



AFP photo shows a seagull sitting before a cargo ship at an international cargo terminal in Tokyo on August 22, 2012. Sagging export markets in Europe and Asia left Japan with a much worse-than-expected trade deficit, figures showed yesterday, ringing alarm bells over the parlous state of the global economy.

Long-lost telegram solves British soldier mystery

LONDON (AFP) - A telegram found during a clear-out at a British bus depot has solved the mystery of a soldier not seen since the D-Day landings, Britain's press reported on Wednesday.

The family of Private Gordon Heaton assumed the Worcestershire Regiment soldier had been killed in fighting following the World War II landings, but could not understand why they had not received an official telegram.

However, the missing War Office telegraph was discovered last November during a clear-out of the lost property department at a bus depot in Birmingham, a family member recently realised.

The document, along with a letter containing the soldier's last will and testament, were

left on a bus by a post office messenger boy.

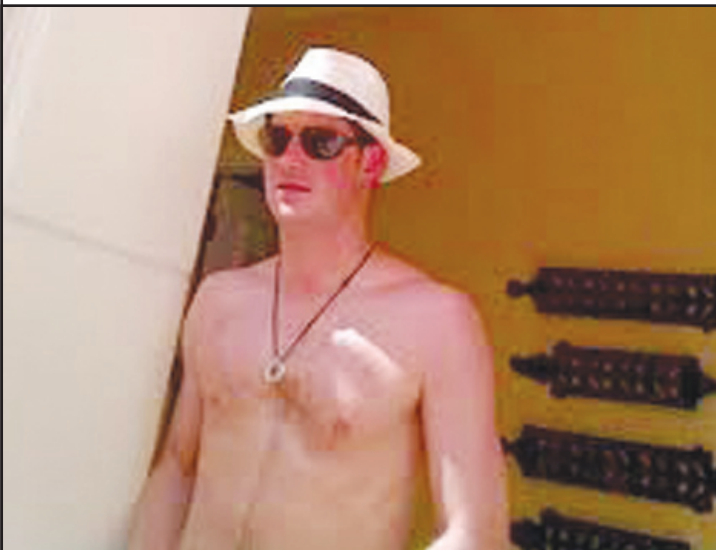
The recovered notes have been handed over to Heaton's nephew, David Hall, who, by coincidence, had recently begun searching for his missing uncle.

"After searching online, I found some information that National Express had released about their discovery, for someone with the name Private Gordon Heaton," he explained, according to the Times newspaper.

"The information ties in with our family so we know it's definitely him.

"Although I'm pleased to make the discovery, I'm tainted with sadness to think a relative of mine who was fighting for his country died at the young age of 21," he added.

Nude photos of Prince Harry are genuine: palace



LONDON (AFP) - The British royal family said Wednesday nude photographs of Prince Harry cavorting with friends on holiday in Las Vegas were genuine. The photographs, published in the United States by celebrity news website TMZ.com, show the third-in-line to the throne standing naked in a hotel suite. In one of the two photographs, the 27-year-old is pictured, apparently wearing only a watch and a necklace, covering his genitals with his hands while another person, who also appears to be nude, stands close behind him. In the other, he is bent over bear-hugging a second person, who also appears to be naked. It is not clear if the person is a man or a woman. Clarence House confirmed to AFP on Wednesday that the images were genuine. "At this time we don't have a comment," a spokesman told AFP, adding: "We may do later." It is rare for Clarence House to confirm the validity of such images, which raise questions about security surrounding the British royal. The two images were taken at the Wynn Resort in Las Vegas after a game of strip billiards last weekend, according to TMZ. Video has also been released from the same trip that purports to show the prince racing US Olympic swimming gold medallist Ryan Lochte in the pool of a nightclub in the hotel. Harry was in Las Vegas after hosting a charity event in San Diego. Known for his playboy reputation, the prince has tried to distance himself from that lifestyle.

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German customs 'demand \$500k for musician's violin'

TOKYO (AFP) - German customs seized a \$1.2 million violin from a Japanese professional musician and are demanding she pay almost \$500,000 to get it back, reports said on Wednesday.

Belgium-based Yuzuko Horigome was transiting through Frankfurt Airport last week after performing in Japan, the top-selling Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper said.

When she tried to walk through the green gate for travellers arriving in the EU with nothing to declare, customs officers stopped her and said she needed to pay 190,000 euros in duty on her 1741 Guarnerius violin.

On top of this were fines, taking the total cost to an eye-popping 380,000 euros (\$475,000), the Tokyo Shimbun said.

Customs confiscated the valuable fiddle because she could not provide the documents for her 1986 purchase, the Yomiuri said.

"The instrument is a tool for my work. For musicians, instruments are like parts of your bodies," she told the Yomiuri. "I have used Frankfurt Airport many times and never had problems like this before. I don't know why this hap-

pened."

She has since submitted documents to prove her ownership of the violin, but negotiations have been difficult, the Asahi Shimbun said, quoting the musician.

Horigome, who has worked in Europe for three decades, was also contacting the governments of Japan and Belgium to see if they could help, the Tokyo Shimbun said.

A spokesman for the German authorities has suggested that the violin might be returned if it is regarded as necessary for her job, the Yomiuri



said.

Guarnerius violins are considered among the world's best, ranked alongside those made by Stradivarius and Amati.

Horigome plays in cities around the world with top conductors and orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic and the Berliner Philharmoniker.

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The car rental name synonymous with savings will next month celebrate their golden anniversary of operating on Aruba! One of the first of its kind to establish a car rental agency with highly competitive prices, it still maintains that standard of offering the best service, a diverse fleet of vehicles to meet each renters needs, at the best price possible.

Budget has a fleet of 250 autos on Aruba, ranging from subcompact to authentic Jeep Wrangler® hardtop 4X4 or the stylish Toyota Rav 4, for exploring Aruba's outback in air-conditioned comfort. Their standard Toyota Yaris, the most popular model, is known for quality and dependability. Each year, they refresh 25% of their fleet and retire the older cars. Compared to the U.S., car rentals are quite affordable on Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach, an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach resorts. Budget will provide free transportation to their Arawak Gardens outlet from any hotel, and return you to your door when turning in your car.

A Toyota Yaris rents for \$174 for the week; there is an additional airport concession fee to have a car available immediately on arrival, but this is balanced out by the cost of roundtrip fares to most resorts, and on weekly rentals is a decided savings.

Budget has become the world's third largest car rental franchise because of their commitment to quality service and product at the best price possible, and the staff of Budget Car Rental Aruba is equally dedicated to seeing their customers smile

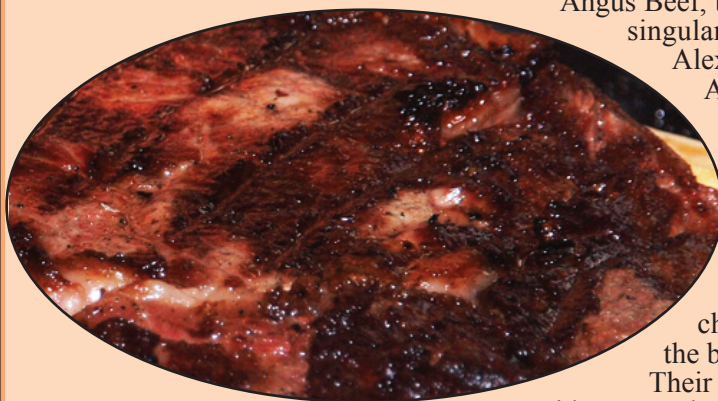
Steak lovers unite at Maute Grill in Paseo Herencia Mall



Elegant Dining Room with a view of Palm Beach



Bartender Ivan produces a refreshing sangria



Wood Grilled Rib Eye

Its all about the beef at Maute Grill in Paseo Herencia Mall; 100% USDA Prime Black Angus Beef, to be precise, but prepared in the singular Venezuelan manner by Chef Alexander. Maute owners Omar and Alexandra were proudly showing off a selection of their prime cuts and alternative dishes for media; a tempting array of succulent beef cuts as well as unique dishes such as rabbit, rack of lamb, salmon, fresh mussels and crab claws and veal chops, slow cooked and falling off the bone.

Their extremely diverse menu can provide some adventures in eating, as well as 28oz of prime Porterhouse or T-bone steak for those with exceptionally hearty appetites and a dedication to red meat. Even the rib eye and filet mignon are exceptionally large, and a number of cuts can be ordered for two.



Specialty of the House typical Venezuelan platter

The restaurant provides a very charming ambiance, with the gentle strains of typical Venezuelan music complimenting the low key atmosphere. Beginning the evening with a glass of their fruity house special sangria by Master Mixologist Ivan is a must.

Formally a dinner only spot, Maute Grill has just announced a tempting menu to encourage those looking for a perfect spot for a power lunch. A continually rotating menu provides new choices each month. Since the beginning of August the offering is Soup or Caesar Salad, a choice of Sirloin Steak, Coq au Vin or fresh grouper for a main course and dessert for only \$28.95, served from noon until 3:00 p.m. daily.

For a real taste treat, make sure to swath your steak with their Guasacaca Sauce, a zesty blend of parsley, garlic and avocado, the Venezuelan version of Chi-michurri, which is the required way to compliment your meat Latin style; you have it no other once you have tried it!

The restaurant has a charming open air bar, allowing patrons to relax and observe the busy mall life, or there is the option of an air-conditioned dining room. Those dining at the outdoor terrace have the pleasure of watching their

steak grilled on an open wood fire at their table, offering the option of specifying when it is done enough. This is very much the Venezuelan way, and the side dishes and garnishes are aimed at providing that true taste of



Stewed Rabitt



Mussels and Stone Crab platter

Latin cooking here in Aruba. For reservations call 586-1120.

SPORTS

Paralympics: Three Jordanians bailed over sex allegations

BELFAST (AFP) - Three members of the Jordanian Paralympic team accused of sex offences at a pre-Games training camp in Northern Ireland were released on bail on Wednesday.

Two wheelchair-using power-lifters and a trainer appeared at Coleraine Magistrates' Court facing charges including sexual assault and voyeurism.

A senior Jordanian government official denied reports that the King of Jordan had personally intervened in the case, although the official said the monarch was "concerned" by the allegations.

The men were arrested on Monday in the town of Antrim, northwest of Belfast, after three women lodged complaints.

Power lifter Omar Sami Qaradhi, 31, faces three charges of sexual assault, two against a child, and one of voyeurism after allegedly entering a women's changing room at the team's training centre at the Antrim Forum leisure centre.

Police said he was identified by a 14-year-old girl who claimed that she posed for

photos with him before he groped her between the legs in Antrim town centre.

The same day, a girl aged 16 said she was walking along the river path beside the team's training base at Antrim Forum with a friend when their path was blocked by the three accused.

Police alleged that the girl was pushed by one of the men towards Omar, who placed his arm around her waist and tightened his grip, but then she ran away.

Tony Cahir, a lawyer for three accused, said Omar had not had any legs since birth and was incapable of sexual gratification.

The three men were released on combined bail and sureties of £5,500 (\$8,700, 6,970 euros) each.

They have to make weekly contact with the Jordanian embassy in London before their next appearance in court on October 18.

The Jordanian Olympic committee issued a statement saying: "The committee will not tolerate any misconduct. It has full confidence in British judiciary."



LOGRONO (AFP) - Germany's John Degenkolb won the fifth stage of the Tour of Spain after edging ahead of Italy's Daniele Bennati in the final seconds while Spain's Joaquin Rodriguez held on to the overall lead. Degenkolb of Argos-Shimano, who also won the second stage, finished the 168-kilometre (104-mile) ride that began and ended in the northern city of Logrono in four hours, 10 minutes and 37 seconds. Bennati of Radioshack-Nissan launched a sprint in the final minutes and managed to open up a significant gap but in the final metres Degenkolb picked up speed and inched ahead of the Italian at the finish line. The previous two stages included hill-top finishes and Wednesday's urban circuit in Logrono allowed for a rare chance for sprinters to shine during this year's race. Temperatures in Logrono hit 32 degrees Celsius (90 Fahrenheit). Rodriguez finished safely in the peloton to hold on to the overall leaders' red jersey for the second straight day as well as keeping his one-second advantage over Chris Froome of Team Sky.

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Football: Torres 'offside' goal seals Chelsea comeback



LONDON (AFP) - Fernando Torres's controversial late goal proved decisive as Chelsea staged a second half recovery to secure a 4-2 Premier League victory over promoted Reading at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

Torres converted from close range with nine minutes remaining -- but television replays showed the Spaniard was clearly in an offside position when he turned home Ashley Cole's cross.

Visiting manager Brian McDermott was left incensed by the decision of referee Lee Mason to award the goal that undid his side's previous excellent work.

At that point Reading appeared to be on course to claim at least a point after goals from Pavel Pogrebnyak and Danny Guthrie -- helped by an error by Chelsea keeper Petr Cech -- had overturned Frank Lampard's early penalty.

Gary Cahill's long range shot had brought Chelsea level midway through the second half but the match was very much in the balance when Torres struck.

Then, in the very final sec-

onds, Branislav Ivanovic capped a breakaway to roll in the fourth goal after Reading keeper Adam Federici had gone forward.

When the dust settled, European champions Chelsea could reflect on a second successive victory but there was little doubt they had benefited from a slice of good fortune and survived a major scare.

It was in stark contrast to the way they had marked the start of their league campaign with victory at Wigan.

And when the home side carried on where they had left off at the DW Stadium, the signs were ominous for Reading.

Eden Hazard, an immediate success in first Premier League game three days previously, again settled quickly collecting a second minute pass from Juan Mata before pulling his left foot shot narrowly wide.

Then the Belgian produced a moment of trickery to outfox Reading right back Chris Gunter and win the 17th minute penalty that appeared to set Chelsea on course for a comfortable three points.

Lampard converted confi-

dently from 12 yards and with Reading apparently unable to get near their sharper opponents it was hard to see a way back for the visitors.

The one bright spot for Reading during a torrid opening 25 minutes however, had been the sight of Pogrebnyak unsettling the Chelsea central defensive pair of Cahill -- in for the injured David Luiz -- and John Terry.

And the Russian equalised when Gareth McCleary picked him out in the 25th minute, escaping Cahill's marking and heading home from 12 yards out.

Reading were now instilled with a sense of belief and were further rewarded four minutes later after Jobi McAnuff's direct run towards the box was ended abruptly by a Terry foul.

Guthrie lined up the angled free kick from 25 yards out and was as surprised as anyone to see his low shot spill out of Cech's arms and over the line after the ball had been allowed to pass beneath the defensive wall.

Chelsea's shape had gone with the two holding midfielders -- John Obi Mikel and Lampard -- unable to protect the back four.

They were also unable to mesh with Mata, Hazard and Ramires, the three players operating in support of Torres.

The Spaniard, meanwhile, was having little impact on the game and missed a free header in first half added time.

Chelsea needed a slice of luck to get them back into the game and it came in the 69th minute when Cahill sent in a swerving shot from 30 yards.

The ball bounced in front of Federici but the keeper should have done better.

Baseball: A's pitcher Colon banned 50 games for doping

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oakland A's pitcher Bartolo Colon was suspended for 50 games by Major League Baseball yesterday after testing positive for abnormally high levels of testosterone, the club announced.

The violation of Major League Baseball's drug prevention and treatment program for a performance-enhancing substance means an immediate ban without pay for the 39-year-old right-hander, who is in his 14th major league season.

"I apologize to the fans, to my teammates and to the Oakland A's," Colon said in a statement. "I accept responsibility for my actions and I will serve my suspension as required by the Joint Drug Program."

Colon has a 10-9 record in 24 starts for the American League club this season with a 3.43 earned-run average. He struck out 91 batters and walked 23 in 152 1/3 innings with 161 hits surrendered, including 17 home runs.

Colon, who was to have started on Thursday, led Oakland in wins and innings pitched this season and had helped the A's move within one game of Tampa Bay and Baltimore for a wild-card playoff berth in the American League.



"The Oakland Athletics are disappointed to learn of today's suspension of pitcher Bartolo Colon," the team said in a statement.

"The organization fully supports Major League Baseball's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program and its efforts to eliminate performance-enhancing substances from our game."

Colon, who was working on a \$2 million contract this season, has a 171-122 career record with a 4.05 career earned-run average with

Cleveland, the Chicago White Sox, Los Angeles Angels, Boston, the New York Yankees and Oakland.

Colon will miss the final 40 games of Oakland's season and either the club's first 10 playoff games or the first 10 games of his next major league season.

The ban comes a week after a 50-game ban was imposed upon San Francisco Giants star Melky Cabrera, also a Dominican, for a positive doping test for testosterone.

Azarenka named top seed for US Open



NEW YORK (AFP) - World No. 1 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, the reigning Australian Open champion, was named on Wednesday as top seed for the US Open women's tournament that begins Monday. World No. 2 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, who lost the Wimbledon final to 14-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams, was named the second seed for the fortnight on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts. Russian Maria Sharapova, who completed a career Grand Slam with her fourth major title at this year's French Open, was named the third seed while Williams, a three-time US Open winner, was named the fourth seed. Williams captured last month's Wimbledon title and won the London Olympics singles gold medal and women's doubles title with her sister Venus at the event, also played on the Wimbledon grass. Australian Samantha Stosur, the defending champion, was named seventh seed while three-time winner Kim Clijsters of Belgium, who has won 21 matches in a row at the tournament, is the 23rd seed in her farewell US Open appearance. Two-time champion Venus Williams is the only former US Open champion not seeded in the field.

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MLB Standings

American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
YANKEES	72	51	.585	--	WASHINGTON	77	46	.626	--
TAMPA	69	55	.556	3.5	ATLANTA	70	53	.569	7.0
BALTIMORE	67	56	.545	5.0	PHILADELPHIA	57	66	.463	20.0
BOSTON	59	64	.480	13.0	NY METS	57	66	.463	20.0
TORONTO	56	66	.459	15.5	MIAMI	57	67	.460	20.5
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CHICAGO	67	55	.549	--	CINCINNATI	75	49	.605	--
DETROIT	65	57	.533	2.0	PITTSBURG	67	56	.545	7.5
KANSAS	55	68	.447	12.5	ST. LOUIS	66	56	.541	8.0
CLEVELAND	54	69	.439	13.5	MILWAUKEE	57	66	.463	17.5
MINNESOTA	51	71	.418	16.0	CHICAGO	47	76	.382	27.5
West	W	L	Pct	GB	West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	71	51	.582	--	SAN FRANCISCO	68	55	.553	--
OAKLAND	66	56	.541	5.0	LA DODGERS	67	57	.540	1.5
LA ANGELES	63	60	.512	8.5	ARIZONA	62	61	.504	6.0
SEATTLE	60	64	.484	12.0	SAN DIEGO	55	70	.440	14.0
					COLORADO	48	73	.397	19.0

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Paralympics: Four flames lit on UK's highest peaks



LONDON (AFP) - Four Paralympic flames were lit on the highest peaks of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland ahead of next week's Games in London.

Disabled and able-bodied scouts scaled Scafell Pike in the Lake District in England, Snowdon in Wales, Scotland's Ben Nevis and Slieve Donard in Northern Ireland.

The four flames will be brought together on Tuesday at Stoke Mandeville, the hospital in southern England which is the spiritual home of the Paralympics.

The teams used a ferrocium rod which they struck against a rough steel surface to make sparks that created the flame.

Sebastian Coe, the organiser of the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, joined the trek up Snowdon.

Elaine Paert, who has bipo-

lar disorder, was the first person to carry the flame on Snowdon.

"I only found out on Tuesday that I would be the first person to carry it which was quite an incredible piece of information and I didn't take it in," she told the BBC.

"I was chosen as a representative of a group I am a member of as other people are not physically able to take part. It was absolutely incredible and amazing.

The Paralympics are a near sellout, with spectators attracted by high-profile competitors including "Blade Runner" Oscar Pistorius, the South African double amputee sprinter who competed in the Olympics.

A record 4,200 athletes from 166 countries will take part and the Games will be watched by an estimated global television audience of four billion.

Athletics: No more Bolt-Blake duels this season

LAUSANNE (AFP) - Six-time Olympic champion Usain Bolt and his young Jamaican compatriot Yohan Blake will not race each other again this season, Blake's manager, Cubee Seegobin, indicated on Wednesday.

Bolt, who defended his 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay titles in London, is due to contest the 200m in Thursday's Diamond League meeting in Lausanne, while Blake, who won silver in both individual sprints, will run in the 100m.

The training partners -- gold medallists in Jamaica's world record-breaking 4x100m relay squad -- will race over those same distances in the next meeting in Zurich on August 30, before swapping for the Brussels event on September 7.

Asked about the possibilities for a rematch between the pair and his desire to test himself against his elder rival, Blake said: "Yes, I always love running against him. But ask my manager, who really knows the business."

Seegobin said: "Coach (Glenn) Mills gives Yohan a programme and it's tailored according to people's wishes. It's something for the managers, the meeting director and sponsors.

"And I don't think of it in terms of confrontation but in



terms of what the organiser offers."

Even if Zurich attempted a rematch, Seegobin said he did not see much point after the Olympics, which was the high point of the season, while the two sprinters had already faced off in the Jamaica national trials in June.

Then, Blake, 22, won over 100m and 200m.

Seegobin also said that the effects of Blake's warm-down after London should not be under-estimated.

As such, a race between the pair looks more likely next season.

"My objectives at the end of this season are to continue to run well, improve technically, and not get injured," said Blake.

"In 2013, I will have titles to defend (including the 100m) at the World Championships (in Moscow)."

Bolt insisted that he is not thinking about a new 200m world record, which he currently holds, having stormed to 19.19sec in Berlin in 2009, when he races on Thursday.

"Sure, I have the potential on this track if I am in form and if the conditions are right," he said.

"But my main objective is to give this enthusiastic crowd a show."

In the meantime, there has been talk of both men playing cricket in Australia's Twenty20 Big Bash League after Bolt expressed an interest in turning out for Melbourne Stars and the Sydney Sixers said they hoped to lure Blake.

Both men are cricket fanatics and Bolt played junior cricket before turning to the track, while Blake describes himself as a "bowling machine" in the finest tradition of West Indian fast bowlers.